Numb. 14.

Heraclitus Ridens:

AT

A Dialogue between Jeſt and Earneſt, concerning the Times.

Tueſday, May the 3d. 1681.

Jeſt. AND what ſhall we do now? the Elephant in the Mouſetrap! Ah beloved! and what ſhall we ſay to theſe things? Who would have thought that it would have come to this? alas! alas! that a true Proteſtant Diſſenter who had printed ſo many zealous Addreſſes for the preſervation of his Majeſties Perſon and the Government, ſhould be Kid-napp'd for Treaſon, verily and indeed lau, this will open the Eyes of the wicked to ſee into the very Boſom-thoughts of the ſober Party.

Earn. I wiſh it would open the Eyes of the ſober Party.

Jeſt. They are almoſt out with weeping and blubbering; Oh! there is a great lamentation and mourning for Father *Smith* now he is got into the company of the *Prieſts* and *Jeſuits*.

Earn. But no abhorring either of the Traitor or the Treaſon, I warrant you his ſuffering is Perſecution.

Jeſt. Abhor quothee; that would be a pretty Jeſt indeed, to have true Proteſtant Diſſenters turn *Abhorrers*, now in their old Age too, and abhor Treaſon; they thank you for that: why? one of their main Quarrels againſt the *Liturgy* is becauſe it prays, *from all ſedition, privy conſpiracy and Rebellion, from all falſe Doctrine, Hereſie and Schiſm, Good Lord deliver us*; indeed they cannot give their *unfeigned aſſent and conſent* to it, but Murder and Treaſon will out, many a true word is ſpoke in Jeſt, the Knight of *Rumfords* Propheſie, will all come to paſs in due time; and therefore I would once more adviſe the Young Elephant and the reſt that are forewarned there to have a Care.

Earn. You may as well ſave your breath to cool your Broth, all the thanks you will get will be to be called *Popiſh dog*, whelp of old *Touſer*, or ſome ſuch true Proteſtant Language.

Jeſt. Well! but what will they do for a Cordial to revive the drooping ſpirits of the good Old Cauſe, they ſay, ſhe lies drawing on and is almoſt ſpeechleſs.

Earn. Oh! there's a Cup of Comfortable for her, an Egg broken into a pail of Water.

Jeſt. It muſt be a Comet Egg, or a Cockatrice Egg, or it will do no Feats.

Earn. It is an Egg of a Cock-a-hoop, a Coxcomb Egg, like *Minerva*, it comes out of the place where Brains ſhould be; it is called a *Character-Egg*; Oh Sir, your Characters are delicate things, there's ſalt and heat, and ſpirit and flame and all that in't.

Jeſt. And is there not fire and brimſtone too; that, oh that would call back the fleeting Soul of Madam *Republica*, though ſhe were never ſo much down, or even cold in the mouth.

Earn. They will throw ſome *Character* in her face, and that will fetch her again or the Devils in't, and if that ſhould not do, there's *Fra. Peters*, *Hugh*'s kinſman, her old Friend, has almoſt broke his neck for haſte to bring a bottle of the Eſſence of Addreſs, which they ſay is a moſt Commonwealth Cordial, for ſhe has an antipathy to the word *Sovereign*, it ſmells ſo ſtrong of the perfume of Majeſty, that it puts her Ladiſhip into faintings and fits of the Mother.

Jeſt. This will do her buſineſs: then I expect to hear ſhe has given up the Ghoſt, theſe *Voxes* are true Proteſtant Mercury's highly ſublimate: they breed Squinzies, Strangulations, difficulty of breathing, and occaſion ſudden death. Squire *Ketch* rejoices as much to hear of a new *Vox*, as an old Sexton does to hear of a new Delight, as the common people call an Epidemical Feaver.

Earn. Come, I love to hear the Mountebancks Cant now and then, pray what ſay theſe two State-Quacks.

Jeſt. Why? there's *Vox Patriæ*, an't ſhall pleaſe you, comes huffing and ſwaggering full of the *Reſentments* and *Indignation of the Freeborn Subjects of England*.

Earn. This is juſt like the Gentleman that when he was got drunkiſh himſelf, went about rallying all his Acquaintants for being fudled: Mr. *Vox* is full of wrath and Indignation, and he fancies all the Freeborn *Engliſh* are ſo too.

Jeſt. He would have them ſo, but let him take warning by the Elephant who has addreſſed himſelf into Newgate.

Earn. I find the Pariſh grows ſhort, when *England* muſt be drawn to ſuch a point, that 7 or 8 and twenty Factious little Boroughs and a Company of *Frank Smiths* firſt rate true Proteſtants in the great ones, muſt by a figure of a part for the whole, be the Repreſentatives of the Freeborn *Engliſh*, and their taking Pet, that they cannot get to be a Commonwealth, muſt be the Reſentments and Indignation of the Freeborn *Engliſh*, and the *vox Patriæ*. I think it is more like his Voice who is full of wrath becauſe his time is but ſhort. This fellow muſt be drunk or mad, for he has cut his own throat, by tacking to the end of his Libel a plain Confutation of his *vox Patriæ*. for if I reckon right there are 240 odd Counties, Cities and Burroughs in his Liſt of the Parliament, and of theſe, 240 either preſented no Addreſſes, or ſuch as were far different from his; ſo that if he had told Noſes, he would not have told ſuch a loud lie, as to call his Pamphlet Crambe, *vox Patriæ*.

Jeſt. Oh! for that matter look ye, they that addreſſed were the only Freeborn *Engliſh*, and they that

did

did not addreſs were to be ſlaves to them, if they had luck't right.

Earn. Well! it is a ſad thing to have but one Eye: if theſe Addreſſites had had two, ſure they would with one of them have lookt at home, and ſeen the unreaſonableneſs of keeping ſuch a pudder and a ſtir about their being freeborn Subjects, and preſerving their birthrights, while with the ſame breath they were petitioning and addreſſing to deprive the greateſt Subject in *England* & *Europe* of his Birthright, as if a little 40 ſhilling man, or Burgeſs, might not have his Toes trod upon without undoing the whole Nation, and introducing arbitrary Government and Popery, but a mighty Prince might be ſtript of his Birthright without Injuſtice, which is perfect introducing Popery; and one Reaſon why the Pope was excluded from *England* by Act of Parliament.

Jeſt. I would you could make them believe that.

Earn. If they believe a Parliament they muſt. 25 *H.* 8. *c.* 22. ſays the Pope or Biſhop of *Rome*, and See Apoſtolique contrary to the great and inviolable Grants and Juriſdictions given by God immediately to Emperours, Kings, and Princes, in ſucceſſion to their Heirs, hath preſumed in times paſt to inveſt who ſhould pleaſe them, to inherit in other mens Kingdoms and Dominions. So that you ſee diſinheriting the Heirs of the Kingdom of their ſucceſſion is downright Popery, and as it follows in the Statute, being deeply conſidered is too dangerous to be ſuffered any longer within this Realm, and too much contrary to the Unity Peace and tranquility of the ſame, and greatly reproachable and diſhonourable to the whole Realm.

Jeſt. A plain caſe, as the noſe on a mans Face that the Addreſſites are for reintroducing Popery. Come leave Mr. *Vox* to chew the cud upon his Reſentments and Popiſh Indignation and Addreſſes, and let's have a touch with Mr. *Character*.

Earn. Ah, there's your man for ſervice: he comes at a dead low Ebb, with a Flood, a Torrent of Eloquence, and bears down all before him with powerful Declamation: he's for preſerving the Jewels of the Subjects Birthright too, by ſuch an Inſtance and Preſident, as opens a gap to deſtroy them all: for if the birthright of the greateſt Subject may be taken away by a Bill, you know *tantundem dat tantidem*, by the ſame Rule, and way any or all our Birthrights, or *Magna Charta* and all we have, may be taken away; and I fancy the Freeborn *Engliſh* will not thank Mr. *Character* for this Doctrine.

Jeſt. He never thought of a Conſequence in his life, what do you talk of Conſeqnences?

Earn. I believe he did not; come, you ſhall hear him harangue himſelf into Newgate too.

Jeſt. You ſhall repeat his Premiſes, and I will make his Conſequences, and then we ſhall ſee whether he can think.

Earn. Come on, *Charac.* p. 3. *Succeſſion of Princes is a moſt unqueſtionable means to preſerve a Kingdom from the bloody and ruinous conteſts of ambitious pretenders and uſurpers.*

Jeſt. Ergo, to exclude the preſumptive Heir from the ſucceſſion, is the beſt way to prevent thoſe bloody and ruinous Conteſts.

Earn. Char. p. 5. *The bloody conteſts in this Iſland between the two Houſes of* Lancaſter *and* York *coſt ſuch deluges of blood, while the Sword diſcuſs'd the deſtructive arguments of ſucceſſion.*

Jeſt. Ergo the famous Expedient found out at *Oxford* to ſet up two Houſes to decide the ſucceſſion by the Sword, is the beſt way to prevent a ſecond Deluge.

Earn. Char. ibid. *when a ſucceſſion is once determined, the tie of the Subjects obedience is indiſſoluble, unleſs the exorbitant Ravages of deſtructive Tyranny firſt diſintangle and unlooſe the* Gordian *knot.*

Jeſt. Ergo a Bill of Excluſion may diſſolve an indiſſoluble knot. For by the Stat. before recited the ſucceſſion is determined, and the 1 *Jac.* 1. ſays, *that the King is rightful Heir by the Laws of God as well as man*; and I believe Mr. *Character* dares not yet deny this to be an ancient Impeſial hereditary Monarchy.

Earn. But there is another knot which you have ſlipt over, That Tyranny in a King diſſolves the *Gordian* knot of obedience. Oh brave *Popery* and *Presbytery*! this ſtroak of roaſt was borrowed from *Mariana*, *Knox* and *Buchanan*. Admit this for Law, and down goes Monarchy in the turn of Mr. *Characters* hand; for the Pen that can ſo eaſily call one *Brother Alpiner*, with a Daſh upon occaſion call the other *Tyrant*.

Jeſt. I warrant you he thought he was writing the Tragedy of *Bajazet*, for he beats out his own brains againſt the grate to make the Repreſentation more taking. he'l be clapt ſoundly I am confident when he comes to his Epilogue.

Earn. He muſt rave, that's certain, for he lays about him like a *Vox Patriæ*, and in his indignation and reſentments wounds his dear Friends the Phanaticks, p. 18. *It is a Maxim moſt certainly uncontroulable, That where Religion fluctuates, there can be no durable foundation of Government.*

Jeſt. True, True Mr. *Character*. Ergo the Rolling ſands of 150 Religions of Proteſtant Diſſenters, are altogether unſafe for the Government, but you promiſed me I ſhould ſee Mr. *Character* brought to bed.

Earn. That you ſhall preſently of a Premunire at leaſt, by the help of his own man-midwifery. p. 10. *By which it is plain. that the Authority of the King being only Derivative, was inferiour to the Authority from whence it was derived*; which he tells us was a Parliament.

Jeſt. A Premunire ſay you; I believe it is *Franksmithiſm*, *Newgatiſm* and ſmells of ſubverting the Government; the the Kings Authority Derivative, and only derivative, and inferiour to a Parliament, then God b'w' ye Sovereignty and and Supremacy. But theſe *Voxes* and *Characters* will eat up all our *Queries* as the *Moles* did, if we do not look to them.

Earn. No, they'l be hang'd firſt, they do not like them ſo well.

Quere 1. Whether Popiſh Zeal to exclude a Proteſtant Succeſſor be a good foundation for Proteſtants to build their practice upon, and whether it be not one fair ſtep towards reconciling us with the Church of *Rome* to agree with them in ſuch a main article of their new Creed?

2. Whether cold Addreſſes are in ſeaſon all the Year long, and whether *vox Patria's* are not much better eaten out of *Frank Smiths* Pickle?

3. Whether the Addreſſites think the Sun will ſtand ſtill for them, or being paſt high noon, the longeſt day will not have a night?

4. Whether there be not more loyalty in the ſingle Addreſs of the Juſtices of Middleſex, than in all *Vox Patria's* bundles?

5. Whether this Addreſs may not be drawn into example, and the Nation beginning to be really ſenſible of their danger from Common-wealth Addreſſires, may not ſpeak a language far different from *Vox Patriæ*, angry freeborn Engliſh?

6. Whether there can be one inſtance given of all our former even Popiſh Parliaments, for the excluſion of any Prince from the Succeſſion, who had not an ambiguous Title?

7. Whether ever a Parliament went about to limit the Succeſſion, but either by the Command or conſent of the King then Reigning?

8. Whether the Character-man be not a Papiſt, and his deſign the ſame with *Dolemans*, and thoſe mentioned by Dr. *Oats* in his Depoſitions, who endeavour to embarraſs the Succeſſion to the Crown, purpoſely to ſet us all together by the Ears?

9. Whether ever he took the Oath of Supremacy? and if he has, whether he be not perjured, in affirming the Kings authority to be only derivative and inferiour to the Parliaments, directly contrary to that Oath?

10. In anſwer to Cox-*Comus*, Whether he is ſure the Church of *England* muſt come to be under a Popiſh Head, and whether what may be, may not be?

11. Whether His Majeſty be the Head of the Church of *England*, if no, whether *Comus* be not a Papiſt, if yea, whether if Proteſtant Diſſenters were united by Bill and eſtabliſhed by Law, the King muſt be of all their Religions, or if he continue in the Epiſcopal, the Church would not be as much a Monſter as the terrible one of *Momus* with the head of a Wolf and the body of a Sheep, with the Head of one Religion and the body of 150, beſides Atheiſts and Hobbiſts?

12. Whether the King being Head of the Church as ſhe is a political Body, for he is no Prieſt by virtue of his Supremacy, Chriſt only being the Chief Biſhop and ſpiritual head of his Church; the Political Head may not defend the Political Rights of the Church according to Law, notwithſtanding his own private ſentiments in matter of Opinion may be different from the eſtabliſhed Church?

13. Whether *Comus* and *Momus* by their Gerning at and Ridiculing the Common Prayer, and affirming Arbitrary Government to be ſtill in being, are not of the old Elephants Religion for a Free-State and a Church without a Head, and may not in due time take the ſtrong hold of Newgate.

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